

## PART 535 - LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

### 535.00 General.

(a) SCS work results in apparent and permanent changes to the landscape resource on millions of acres. The majority of these changes are beneficial, but some changes have occurred without consideration of all landscape resources, especially the visual resource. On a national scale, the public need for conservation of landscape resources becomes more important as development, population, and management pressures increase. In recent years, legislation has recognized the public need for landscape resource conservation. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977, and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 require SCS to consider landscape resources.

(b) SCS policy is to maintain or enhance the landscape resource, abide by legislative intent, and meet the public need. This commitment is accomplished by maintaining leadership in conservation Technology and dealing with landscape resources in all conservation activities.

(c) The objective of landscape architecture is to provide the technical procedures, training guidance, and management tools to conserve or rehabilitate the landscape resource in all programs, project, and activities through conservation technical assistance.

(d) The basic principles of landscape architecture are to be applied as an integral part of all engineering work. They must be considered early in planning and continued through design, construction, operation, and maintenance to ensure safe, appropriate, functional, and efficient results.

### 535.01 Definitions.

Ecological resource. The function of the landscape in sustaining life-cycle processes.

Landscape architecture. The art and science of planning and designing the landscape for purposeful human use and the conservation of landscape resources. Landscape architecture considers the landscape resource as a composite of its ecological, social, and visual resources.

Social resource. The use of the landscape for economic, functional, and cultural purposes.

Visual resource. The classifiable appearance of a landscape unit.

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535.02 Services.

(a) Landscape resources factors are to receive equal consideration with other factors in conservation work.

(b) The need for landscape architectural services is to be determined according to Technical Release No. 65, "Procedure To Establish Priorities in Landscape Architecture."

(c) SCS landscape architects or the landscape architectural services of private firms or individuals are to be used for both planning and design. Sponsors and governmental or educational institutions may also be used.

(d) An initial planning phase of landscape architectural investigation (see Technical Release No. 65) is to be made on all conservation work to determine priorities and the need for further investigations.

(e) Detailed investigations may be necessary. Procedures for making detailed landscape architectural investigations are being developed; meanwhile, guidance is to be provided by the NTC landscape architect.

(f) Landscape architectural site investigations for channel design are to conform to the procedures cited in Technical Release No. 25, Chapters 1 and 2.

(g) Other inventories, investigations, and studies of the landscape resource may be required in special situations. Guidance for these special studies is to be provided by the National Landscape Architect.

(h) Landscape resource objectives are to be established in planning and developed during design. Procedures for establishing these objectives are being developed; meanwhile, the NTC is to provide guidance in these activities.

535.03 Technical quality.

(a) To advance professional growth and maintain technical competence, SCS landscape architects are encouraged to become registered, to maintain liaisons with universities and professional societies, and to enroll in continuing technical education if feasible.

(b) The quality standard for landscape architecture used in technical training and materials is to:

(1) Include a full range of landscape architectural expertise, not only on the visual resources.

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(2) Be determined by established landscape architectural principles and meet established landscape resource objectives.

(3) Be according to the best available research.

(4) Be flexible so that it can be modified according to new experience and research.

(5) State clearly the scale and type of landscape designated for application by the defined technique.

(6) Be workable in field situations.

(7) Be understandable by field staffs.

(8) Demonstrate quality that is as good as or better than the standard achievable by the profession as a whole.